

West Point. June 28. 1844

My Dear Sir

I have the first opportunity allowed by the conclusion of our tedious June Examination to answer your letter of the 23^d. I would gladly furnish you with the drawings you wish, of Bacillariae and minute Algae, but I am afraid to undertake it. I have an amount of positive engagements on hand that I look at with dread and fear I shall not be able to accomplish. Still I think that if you could visit me here I might possibly aid you in the selection of striking subjects for your drawing and give directions about the colors proportions &c. I do not expect to make any long excursions this summer, and if you can be here ~~after~~ in July you will be almost sure to catch me, and if you will give me a weeks notice of your intended visit I can promise you to be at home.

I rejoice to hear from many sources that your botanical lectures were received with the interest which I knew you would be able to excite.

I think there are many matters connected with the doubtful microscopic Algae, and the possibly allied, although decidedly animal Desmidiaceae & Bacillaria that might be made very interesting in a lecture, and I am glad that you are going to take them up.

I hope you find the new Microscope all that you expected. I long to take a deep through it. I suspect that its possession by you will be followed by numerous discoveries in botany &c. — I saw Dr. Beck's microscope in Philadelphia, it was made by Powell and it certainly is a fine instrument. It shows the lines on the scales of Podura in an admirable manner, and decidedly better than than they can be seen by my Chevalier. Yet its mechanical arrangements are far less convenient, and for a working instrument I prefer my own.

If you will come on and spend a week or so with me, you will find a room ready for you, and I shall be delighted to have a good long talk over our favourite studies, We can work together with my microscope and you can make notes of many matters which I think you can work into your lectures.

Let me know soon, whether, you can come and when,

My plans for the summer are vague, but I have determined not to work any, I have thought of a visit to Fort Hamilton for a few days, also of a short trip to the Catskills and the Helderbergs, and of another to visit Dr Horton at Craigsville Orange Co. - All these are so near that I can be back home in a days journey - So that if I know when to expect you I can always arrange so as to be here

Do not you and Dr Torrey want to join me for a day or two in a tour to the Catskills, I would be delighted to have your company. You could come on together from Princeton, leave your baggage at my house, and be up to the Mountain House, in a few hours. Ask Dr Torrey about this -

Give my most cordial greetings to my dear friends in his family and tell Mrs Torrey and the girls that we will always be truly delighted to see them here at our house.

Believe me sincerely your friend

J. W. Bailey

Dr Asa Gray
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